



Maltese e-Newsletter



The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

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Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris

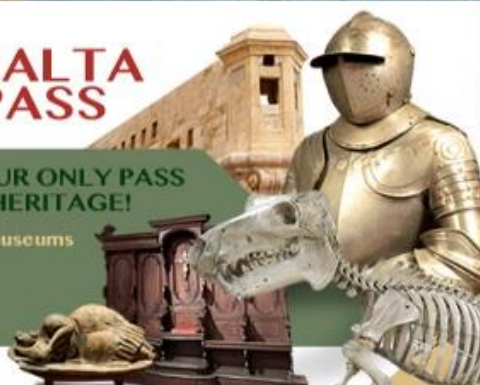
HERITAGE MALTA MULTISITE PASS

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The Heritage Malta Multisite Pass enables admission to 25 Heritage Malta sites and museums plus the Malta National Aquarium and the Citadel Visitor Centre - Gozo (Visit Heritage website)

Maltese ex-servicemen and women marching on ANZAC DAY 25 April in Australia



NEW ZEALAND AND MALTA

WORLD WAR 1



Five things to know about Notre Dame Cathedral



On Monday, news broke that Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris had caught on fire. The 12th century Roman Catholic cathedral, distinguished for its size and French Gothic architecture, is one of Paris' most enduring and beloved landmarks, having survived more than 850 years of renovations and destruction to become a symbol of France itself.

Here are five things to know about the cathedral.

1. ITS ORIGINS

The cathedral was built during the reign of King Louis VII, on the eastern end of the Île de la Cité, an island in the Seine River near the historical center of Paris. In about 1160, Bishop Maurice de Sully proposed building a cathedral dedicated to the Virgin Mary ("Notre Dame" is French for "Our Lady"). It was the center of an urban project, and a church was demolished to make space.

By 1163, it is believed that the first stone was set in the presence of Pope Alexander III, according to the cathedral's website. In the 1180s, the high altar was consecrated. Over the next 100 years, additions were made, including the western facade, chapels and porches.

2. THE ARCHITECTURE

The cathedral is an example of French Gothic architecture, which was an emerging style in the 12th century. Notable pieces of its design were built over time, such as the construction of the imposing western facade, which began in 1200 under the cathedral's third architect and continued for at least 20 years.

The facade's north and south towers were completed in the mid-1200s. The addition of flying buttresses — slanted structures that form arches to provide support — came as the cathedral was built higher and stress fractures occurred. The flying buttress was invented at the cathedral because it was an "exceptionally tall structure," says Carolyn

M. Malone, a USC professor of art history and history.

The center iconic spire, which collapsed on Monday, was dismantled in the 13th century and later reconstructed in the 19th century.

The cathedral is also home to rose windows made of circular stained glass, some of which were recreated in the 19th century.

The interior of the cathedral is about 130 feet by 420 feet, the roof about 140 feet high.

3. ITS REVIVAL

Over the years, the cathedral sustained damage, mostly during the French Revolution, during which 28 statues of kings were destroyed. But the 19th century also brought changes to the cathedral, including a period of reconstruction — ordered by King Louis Philippe — and Victor Hugo publishing his novel, "Notre Dame de Paris," also known as "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," which became a huge success.

During this period, the spire was reconstructed, murals were painted in the side chapels, sculptures were restored and the great organ was reconstructed.

4. SIGNIFICANT MOMENTS IN HISTORY AT NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL

The cathedral has been the setting for numerous historic moments. In 1431, King Henry VI of England was crowned king of France. Notre Dame is where King James V of Scotland married Madeleine of France in 1537. It was also where, in 1804, Napoleon Bonaparte was crowned emperor. It is also where Joan of Arc, who helped France battle England, was beatified. Hugo's book was set at the cathedral (and later became a popular Disney movie).

Most recently, it was the site where tourists were trapped when a hammer-wielding assailant attacked police in 2017. It was the second attack in four days at a European landmark.

5. THE CATHEDRAL TODAY

An estimated 13 million people visit the cathedral each year, according to its website.

Until Monday, the towering cathedral still regularly celebrated Sunday Mass and was home to historical artifacts, including a restored centuries-old organ. Some of its treasures were reported saved during fire.

Motion on 'strategic direction' tunnel between the two islands

Jeremy Micallef



The motion tabled in Parliament on the strategic direction for a permanent link project between Malta and Gozo has been approved.

Amongst other things, the motion called on MPs to back the tunnel project, making reference to the electoral manifestos of both the Nationalist Party and Labour Party.

The motion was filed with the Speaker's office last Tuesday by Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects Ian Borg, and Minister for Gozo Justyne Caruana.

Specifically, the motion referred to the promise for a permanent link between Malta and Gozo in both manifestos, and it also recognized the potential repercussions in the form of waste

generation and the preservation of Gozo's natural beauty and cultural identity.

A number of amendments were made to the original motion from both sides of the House, and it was then passed in its entirety.

Open debate

Speaking during the debate, Dr. Justyne Caruana, Minister for Gozo, said that the ministry sees this project as "a crucial component for the development of Gozo".

She called for the motion to receive the full support of Parliament, maintaining that this will allow for more time with individuals' respective families and better wages, amongst other things.

In response to critics saying the link will cause Gozo to be over-developed, she insisted that the newly established watchdog entity in Gozo will make sure that the island is developed sustainably.

PN MP Chris Said, who had originally pushed for the project, added that it was important to have a proper discussion on this project.

Leaders' Remarks

Prime Minister Joseph Muscat argued that this project would be the largest infrastructural project of its kind for Malta.

The government is looking forward for the project to be completed in the shortest time possible, with respect to all the regulations, Muscat said.

Touching on the issue of the waste which would be generated by the project, he insisted that no idea is being taken off the table.

Leader of the Opposition Adrian Delia insisted that it was fundamental to have all the required studies done and available for public consumption to allow for an informed decision.

Loved, respected, enjoyed
and shared by many
loyal readers



Maltese e-Newsletter



The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

Malta's Michela teams up with Ambra Succi — the choreographer behind Loreen's "Euphoria" performance



Malta — the little island with massive ambition — isn't playing games when it comes to Eurovision 2019. *X Factor Malta*, which served as their 2019 selection, gifted Europe 18-year-old **Michela** — a fresh face with a *big* voice. Then came her song “**Chameleon**”, which set the fandom alight with its unique mix of reggaeton, dance hall and pop. The song comes from our friends at **The Symphonix**, who have secured Top 4 places during the last three editions of Eurovision.

And now comes even more exciting news. Michela is working with noted choreographer **Ambra Succi** and the graphics geniuses at **Front Pictures** for her

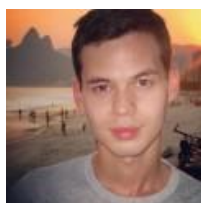
stage show in Tel Aviv.

Ambra is well-known in Sweden for her work with Loreen on the choreography of “Euphoria” — perhaps the most iconic and most celebrated Eurovision performance of the modern era. From her quirky crab dance to the scooping motions of her arms to the memorable lift from a backing dancer who appeared out of nowhere, Ambra dreams up moves that matter.

She was also responsible for Robin Stjernberg's winning performance at Melodifestivalen 2013, and has served as the main choreographer on *X-Factor Sweden* and for countless musical theatre productions in Scandinavia.

Michela's music video for "Chameleon" includes every colour under the sun and shows her working a variety of editorial looks — inside the palazzo and in stunning natural landscapes.

And it seems she'll drop something as dynamic and eye-popping in Tel Aviv as she'll work with the award-winning Front Pictures. They're the graphic artists behind Ukraine's Eurovision 2016 stage show. Jamala's breaking beats song wasn't an obvious winner prior to the contest. But owing partly to their iconic graphics — including *that tree* — they stormed to victory.



More recently they created the amazing visuals for Pink's performance of "Try" at the Brit Awards 2019. Americans will know their work from *America's Got Talent*. **William Lee Adams** William Lee Adams is the founder and editor-in-chief of wiwibloggs. You can follow him on Instagram @williamleeadams, Twitter @willyleeadams and Facebook. Keep up with the latest Eurovision news and gossip by liking our Facebook page and by following the team on Twitter @wiwibloggs.





Start teaching Maltese and English from kindergarten stage

Report: Ruth Castillo TVM tvm.com.au

The first years of childhood are crucial for the linguistic development of children. A research carried out by the National Literacy Agency concluded that from the Kindergarten years, children should start learning Maltese and English languages in classes. Researchers say that there is

no fixed rule on how this should be done, however educators should adapt according to the needs of students.

A major recommendation of the research by the National Literacy Agency is that during the two-year kindergarten term, children become familiar with Maltese and English in classes.

The research showed that seven out of 10 educators of kindergarten students alternate from Maltese to English in activities they organize for children. The majority do this due to foreign students and Maltese children who speak English. Seven per cent of teachers said that words, such as *gimghat* (weeks) and *annimali* (animals) are easier to be taught in English.

Language Use in Early Childhood Education Classrooms in Malta



Researcher Lara Ann Vella said that educators find it more difficult when there are foreign students in classes who neither speak Maltese nor English. Many times, such students communicate with children through pictures, movements and even exchange of words in Maltese and English.

Dr Vella said that educators cannot have a fixed model on how they teach students in both languages, but should consider which model is the most adaptable according to the individual needs of children.

Education Minister, Evarist Bartolo, appealed for a similar research in child care centres, where there are some 5,000 children. He said that bilingualism is advantageous and not a disruption or extra complication. He remarked that the only reference to languages is found in the Constitution, adding that a law is needed in Malta on the official languages and the strengthening of Maltese digital presence otherwise the Maltese language will die in this century.

The 2019 Australian federal election will be held on Saturday 18 May 2019 to elect members of the 46th Parliament of Australia.





New Zealand Māori and Pacific Units in WW1

(Above) New Zealand Pioneer (Maori) Battalion flag

In early 1915 the government sent the New Zealand Maori Contingent to join the New Zealand forces in Egypt. Its soldiers were drawn from iwi across the country and it was eventually organised in companies corresponding to the four Māori electorates. This was a distinctively Maori contribution to the Imperial war effort.

The Maori Contingent was assigned to garrison duty in Malta, but manpower shortages on Gallipoli led to it serving there as an infantry unit from August to December 1915.

The Contingent was reconstituted as a 'Pioneer Battalion' in early 1916, as part of the newly-formed New Zealand Division about to move to the Western Front. Two of the

Pioneer Battalion's four companies were made up of the former Maori Contingent, with the other two drawn largely from the Otago Mounted Rifles.

Pioneers were not front-line fighting units but a military labour force trained and organised to work on engineering duties, digging trenches, building roads and railways, and taking on other logistical tasks. This was essential and dangerous work that was often carried out under fire.

The Pioneer Battalion served with the New Zealand forces on the Western Front from April 1916, and in September 1917 was redesignated the New Zealand Maori (Pioneer) Battalion when all its companies were filled by Māori.



WOUNDED NEW ZEALANDERS AT ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL, MALTA
(1915)

New Zealand soldiers buried in Malta, 1915-1918



Far away but not forgotten

Remembering those lost on its shores, Malta has commemorated Anzac day with a dawn service every year since 1916. Long a strategic stronghold of the British Empire, the Mediterranean island played a crucial role in the First World War as it received more than 230, 000 sick and wounded soldiers from the bloody Gallipoli campaign, averaging 2000 new casualties a week.

To cater for this flood, some 27 hospitals were established or re-commissioned on the island in 1915. Many New Zealand soldiers spent time as casualties there, many being treated

Warren Wairau (a Maori) on visiting Ra's grave in Malta.

at Valetta and Cottenera military hospitals. A sanctuary from the hell of war, Malta came to be known as the 'Nurse of the Mediterranean'.

However despite the efforts of medical staff, many of those evacuated to Malta did not make it home. According to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission database there are 72 New Zealand First World War soldiers buried in Malta: 61 at Pieta Military Cemetery, 10 at Addolorata Cemetery and 1 at Imtarfa Military Cemetery. Dying from wounds or disease suffered at Gallipoli, the men who died on Malta symbolise the wasteful carnage of the campaign. The impact of this tragic history is felt keenly by islanders who turn out every year to remember.

One Māori soldier still there is Private Ra Wairau of Muriwai. Enlisting for the war as a 20 year old, Private Wairau was wounded at Gallipoli and was evacuated to the Valetta Military Hospital on Malta in August 1915. He passed away on 11 September as a result of his wounds and was buried with comrades at Pieta Military Cemetery on the island.

Becoming aware of his family connection to Private Wairau and his brother Private Raniera (who died on the Western Front) later in life, Warren Wairau recalled that,

'Although at one of the marae at Mahia, Kaiuku Marae, Ra's name is recorded on a war memorial of those local servicemen who died during the Great War . . . Even though I had looked at this war memorial countless times as a child, I did not fully appreciate the significance of this connection to my family.'

The family were moved to visit Ra's grave and travelled to Malta in October 2015, 100 years after his death. It was a powerful experience for the family. 'It had rained that morning in Valetta (an expression of grief in the Māori world) even though the previous few days it had been absolutely perfect weather. The Cemetery was a peaceful, beautiful place, very tidy and pristine . . . We laid flowers on his grave and sang a song for Ra.'

Though buried far from home like many New Zealanders, the Wairau whanau are comforted that Ra lies beside his comrades on an island-nation that remembers and honours his service and sacrifice.

NEW ZEALAND SOLDIERS BURIED IN MALTA

Trooper William John Birdsall

13-232



Auckland Mounted Rifles
3rd Squadron

William "Jack" was born 10 August 1894 on the family farm in Big Omaha (Whangateau) the son of John and Isabella. He is related to many familiar families in the Rodney area - Ashton, Darroch, Greenwood, Matheson and Smith.

Like many young men he was keen to enlist, joining the Auckland Mounted Rifles, 3rd Squadron and left with the main body of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force on 16 October 1914. First to Egypt for several months of training, then on to the Gallipoli peninsula, arriving at ANZAC Cove on the 12th of May 1915, with Walker's Ridge their next objective.

On the 14th of June "Jack" was moving down the Monash Valley (south of Walkers Ridge) when he was shot in the back by a Turkish sniper. Under fire, his comrades carried him down to the beach where he was transported to the Hospital Ship H.M.H.S. SOUDAN that took him to the Valletta Hospital in Malta.

On 22nd June 1915 he passed away as a result of his wounds and is buried at the Pieta Military Cemetery, Malta, 18,000 kms from home. Trooper Birdsall was only 20 years old.

Buried:
Plot A, Row V
Grave 5 (A.V.5.)
Pieta Military Cemetery
Triq Id-Duluri, Valletta,, Malta



The tranquil Mediterranean Island of Malta became the last resting place for many Gallipoli soldiers. Above: The iron gates leading into a CWG cemetery on the Island. An army "dog tag" of a New Zealand soldier. A 1915 Red Cross and Saint John's postcard home, but for many the hospitals of Malta would never be seen, on the right the tomb supporting the "silver fern" became the last resting place for Auckland Mounted Rifleman, 13/1056/a John Edward Scott, who died of wounds at sea while being transported to Malta aboard the Hospital Ship "Devanha" on the 4th September 1915, aged twenty-six years old.

NEW ZEALAND MOUNTED RIFLES MALTA: TO CONVALESCENCE OR DIE.



The attack on the Gallipoli Peninsula introduced The New Zealanders to a new horrific twentieth century war of heavy artillery bombardments and deadly machine gun fire. The carnage wrought on both sides of the battle lines had not been witnessed before. Men died in their thousands each day. Some were to say that "they were the lucky ones" as the injuries to tens of thousands of men in the allied lines were truly terrible. Compounding the problems for these wounded men was the inability to move them immediately out of the trenches to hospital ships anchored off-shore. The open ground of ANZAC was a death trap for medics trying to aid men during the day, and the tortuous terrain down the steep ravines to the beachhead was dangerous at night - help was slow in coming. Men sometimes lay for days waiting evacuation, many bled to death, and infections and disease ravaged both the wounded and the able bodied. Thirst was also a continual pressure. Dressing Stations in the reserve areas swamped with dying men.



Esther Barker and Beatrix Dobie worked at Aotearoa, the New Zealand War Contingent Association canteen at Codford in 1916, after returning from Malta.

If a soldier was lucky enough to reach the beachhead and then survive the over crowded conditions aboard a hospital ship, he was destined for one of the many hospitals established away from the war zone. Close by on the Greek Island of Lemnos was the first of the hospitals, also there were many established back in Egypt, others for the more serious cases were located in England and Malta.

The trials experienced by the wounded were great, the world was still a generation away from the "Magic Bullet" of penicillin, recovery times were extensive. But through all the pain, Englishman, Chaplain Major, the Reverend Albert Mackinnon observed in his book: "Malta, The nurse of the Mediterranean"

"... But one soldier stands out from the others as the cheeriest man I ever met. He was a big, handsome New Zealander. named Fraser, and when he first came in he was in a most critical condition. He had eighteen wounds in his body. "Oh, I am getting on all right," was his first greeting to me. From the start I noticed that his mind always dwelt on most favourable symptoms of his wounds, and I believe that this helped to save his life. If his shoulder were healing he spoke about that, and said nothing about his knee, which was suppurating. I called him the cheeriest patient in Valletta Hospital. When I told him about our tea room for the wounded he insisted on giving some money to drive up some of the other men in the ward who were strong enough to go though unable to walk, and from that time onward, while battling with pain, he was always anxious to talk about it, and plan for others enjoying its benefits. For months he lay there, emitting, like radium, rays of cheer that brightened the whole ward. He was taken from his bed to the New Zealand hospital ship, and our last glimpse of him was a smile. That was one of Malta's rainbows, which I shall never forget..."

[Sarah Carabott](#)

Do you speak Maltese as well as Jinjing

Chinese academic plans to teach Maltese at Beijing University

Dr. Xu believes that Maltese is easier than English



Jingjing Xu has only spent five months in Malta and can already hold a fluent conversation in Maltese.

The 30-year-old first heard of the Maltese language at the Beijing Foreign Studies University, where she teaches.

In the past, the language used to be taught at the university by Maltese lecturers. However, when Dr Xu saw that the teaching post had remained vacant over the past few years, she travelled to Malta herself.

Dr Xu plans on spending a year here as a visiting scholar at the University of Malta's Department of Maltese, before heading back to her university to teach Maltese there.

Holding a whole conversation with *Times of Malta* in Maltese, she explained that she will be the first Chinese lecturer teaching the language at the Beijing Foreign Studies University.

Learn the language of a place that has such a rich history

But why would Chinese students want to learn Maltese?

"I believe that there are Chinese people who would like to come to Malta to study and work, while there are others who are interested in

learning the language of a place that has such a rich history," she said.

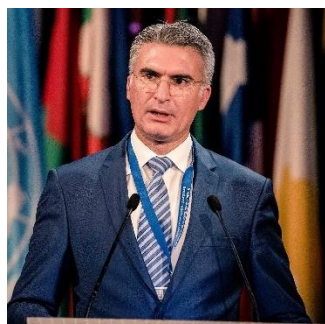
One of the things that gives Malta an edge over other languages is its unique way of bringing together the lexical structure and grammar of other languages, such as Arabic, English and Italian.

Asked whether she thought Maltese or Chinese was more difficult to grasp, Dr Xu said that she initially believed Maltese was really challenging. However, the Department of Maltese soon came to the rescue.

Still, Dr Xu admitted that Maltese was not easy compared to other languages she has studied – such as Japanese, Italian and English. Once back in Beijing, she plans on continuing streaming and listening to Maltese radio and TV programmes, while also translating literary works. Dr Xu finds local expressions unique to the island to be quite interesting, and believes *mela* is "very cute".

However, her favourite Maltese word remains *dehen* (roughly translated to reason, sound judgement, discernment or genius) which features in the national anthem, and sounds similar to *deheb* (gold).

Dr Xu, who loves the word's unique meaning, has even come up with a phrase: *id-dehen jiswa mitqilu deheb*, which translates to 'sound judgement is worth its own weight in gold'.



THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE PROMOTION CARMELO ABELA SENDS HIS CONGRATULATIONS

The Honourable Carmelo Abela sent a letter of congratulations to Mr Frank Scicluna for being awarded the Medal of Service (*Midalja Għall-Qadi tar-Repubblika*) on Malta Republic Day

13 December 2018 by the President Emeritus Her Excellency Marie Louise Coleiro Preca. This award reflects the appreciation of the Maltese Government for his many years of sterling work for the Maltese Diaspora and the promotion of the Maltese language and culture among the Maltese living abroad.

WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO SUPPORT THE MALTESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL IN AUSTRALIA

SEHER IL-MALTI

RADJU MALTA (93.7FM)

Seher I-Istejjer/ The Magic of Stories, is a family literacy programme intended for children of 4 to 6 years and their parents or caregivers. This bilingual programme is run by the National Literacy Agency of the Ministry for Education and the Centre for Literacy of the University of Malta. The primary objective of the programme is to promote a love of books among children through the involvement of their parents or caregivers. Children are motivated to read books and parents are encouraged and shown how to share books with their children in an effective manner.

One hour sessions are held in a literacy rich environment. Stories from books are animated in a way which stimulates the children's imagination. This provides also learning opportunities for both children and their parents. The foundations are laid for the children to become enthusiastic readers.



Seher I-Istejjer/ The Magic of Stories huwa programm tal-litteriżmu fil-familja maħsub għat-tfal ta' bejn 4 u 6 snin u l-ġenituri/kuraturi. Dan il-programm bilingwi huwa mmexxi mill-Aġenzija Nazzjonali tal-Litteriżmu tal-Ministeru tal-Edukazzjoni u ċ-Ċentru tal-Litteriżmu tal-Università ta' Malta. Is-sessjonijiet bla ħlas isiru darba fil-ġimgħa u matulhom jinqraw stejjer b'mod animat u divertenti li jstimulaw l-immaġinazzjoni tat-tfal. L-għan primarju tal-programm huwa li jippromwovi l-imħabba tal-kotba fost it-tfal permezz tal-involvement tal-ġenituri/kuraturi.

SEHER IL-MALTI

flimkien niskopru l-gmiel ta' lsienna

Dan il-programm fuq il-lingwa Maltija jixxandar fuq Radju Malta (93.7FM)

kull nhar ta' Sibt fil-12.15pm (fin ta' Malta). Tista' tisma' l-programm dirett minn hawn:

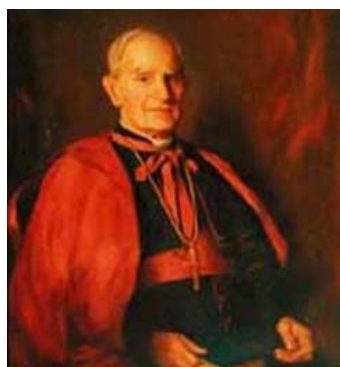
<https://www.tvn.com.mt/mt/radio-listen-live/?stream=rm>

Tista' tisma' wkoll l-aħhar programmi li jkunu xxandru minn hawn:

<https://www.tvn.com.mt/mt/radio-programmes/seher-il-malti/>

Paġna tal-Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SeherilMalti/>

Ikkuntattjana: seher@radjumalta.com.mt (+356) 22913395/6



JEDD L-ILSIEN MALTI

Dun Karm Psaila

Għaliex tarmih l-ilsien li tatek ommok,
U tiflek għaqlek wara Isien barrani?
Maltija kienet l-ewwel kelma f'fommok,
U bil-Malti tkellimt tifel daħkani.

Petition to save the Maltese language course across Australia for High School students

This petition is a collaborative effort of:



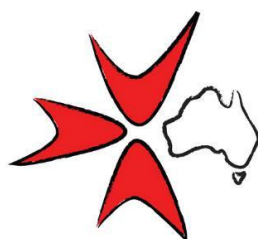
FMLS
FEDERATION OF MALTESE
LANGUAGE SCHOOLS INC

FEDERAZZJONI TAL-ISKEJJEL TAL-MALTI INC. (AWSTRALJA)

Skola Maltija



Nimxu 'l Quddiem fl-Gherf



Maltese-Australians'
Youth Committee NSW (MAYC)

Please sign the petition at: <https://www.communityrun.org/p/maltese-language-australia>
Petition closes midnight Sunday 31st March 2019



**Journal for
the whole
family**

To lose one's
language is to lose
one's culture,

heritage and identity



Programme of activities announced for Gozo Alive 2019

This year's Gozo Alive programme of activities was announced today in the presence of some of the artists who will be taking part.

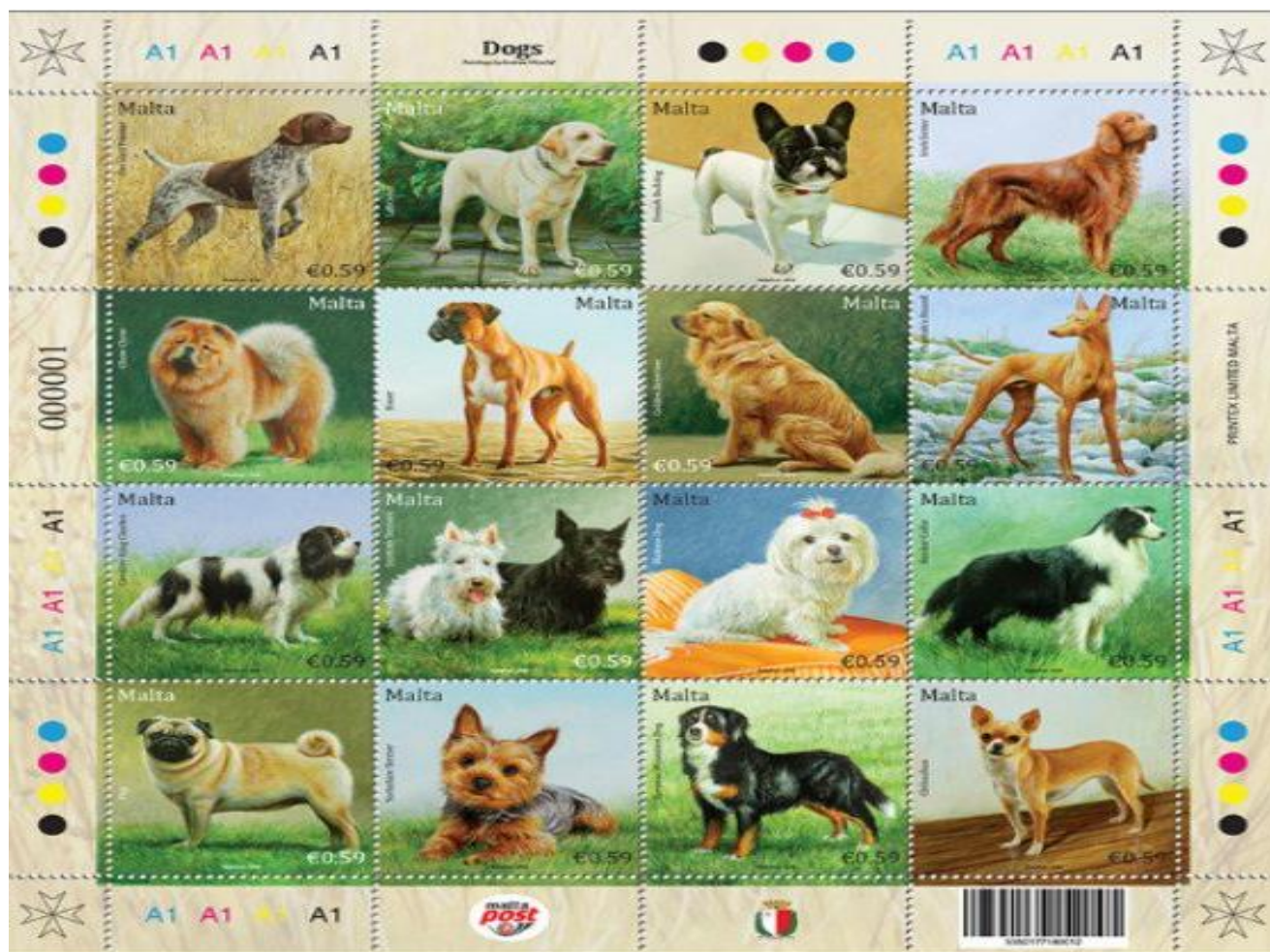
The Minister for Gozo Justyne Caruana said that Gozo Alive will be the main attraction for this year, building on from the success of 2018, and promising to attract an even larger audience, with performances by artists of both local and international fame.

The programme will include more than 60 principal attractions taking place right across the island spread over three days.

Dr Caruana said that [Craig David of international fame](#) as a singer, songwriter, rapper and record producer, will be the main attraction on Saturday, presenting his TS5 Show in Independence Square.

The official opening of Gozo Alive 2019 will be on Friday, the 3rd of May where popular group Tribali will give a unique concert, with spectacle of synchronised fireworks to accompany them. The venue for this show will be near to the heliport at Xewkija.

Among the main attractions of the weekend will be a concert by Firelight and Novel, fashion parade by Charles & Ron, and 3D mapping show in the heart of the Citadel, art exhibitions and photography, a variety of sports activities, games and attractions for children, selections of traditional food, exhibition of classic cars and the participation of a number of choirs and Gozitan singers among others. All museums located in the Citadel will be open to the public

**MaltaPost 2018**

A set of 16 beautiful stamps featuring different dog breeds.

Maltese Language Teachers Association of Victoria



Let the journey begin

Maltese Language Adult Classes offered in Sydenham 2019.

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OUR JOURNAL MAY BE READ AT:
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Maltese Canadiana Archives – Toronto
Facebook and Twitter

**Gozo National Library
MCCV Parkville Victoria
Website: www.ozmalta.com**

Ta' Kola Windmill free Open Day with guided tours



Heritage Malta said that it is the only one on the island that has been restored to its originality and can even be operated. The miller's workshop still houses the original tools belonging to the last miller.

The complete [restoration of the windmill](#) was completed by Heritage Malta in 2016, with the work carried out over a period of three years.

The Open Day is taking place on Sunday, the 28th of April, when the windmill will be open for free.

On the day, 3 guided tours will be offered at 1.30pm (in Maltese), 2.30pm (in English) and 3.30 hours (in Maltese). Following each tour lasting approximately 45 minutes, the windmill's vanes will be rotated – an event which is not to be missed.

Heritage Malta, in collaboration with the Xaghra Local Council, is organising an Open Day at Ta' Kola Windmill to mark the occasion of Jum ix-Xaghra. This promises to be a unique attraction in the village. Local delicacies particular to the village of Xaghra will be served during the day, including traditional brewed coffee.

Ta' Kola Windmill is one of several windmills in Gozo dating back to the Knights' Period.

Admission is free of charge



Upcoming Events at MABSI Maltese American Benevolent Society Inc

General Membership Meeting (May)

May 19, 2019

Open to all members of the club. This is the second of our three general membership meetings held each calendar year. The meeting will take place at the Club on Sunday, 19 May 2019 at 4:00 pm.

Monthly Mass with Fr. Mallia (May)

May 17, 2019

You are invited to celebrate Mass with us on Friday, 17 May 2019 at 6:30 pm at the club. Food will be served following the mass. All are welcome!

Venison Dinner (April)...

April 26, 2019

Join us for our Annual Venison dinner on Friday, 26 April 2019 @ 6:00 p.m.
Call to reserve your spot today. Limited food will be available.



The Maltese Aged Care Association (SA) Inc. (**MACASA**) was founded in 1994 with the intent of establishing ethno-specific aged care services for our Maltese elderly in South Australia.

The development of **MACASA** over the years has been rewarding, and at times very challenging.

Here is a brief look at our achievements.

HISTORY OF MACASA

In 1994, a group of Maltese volunteers recognised the need for some form of residential care for our Maltese elderly. A committee met on a regular basis and incorporated our Association under our present name.

In 1995, we undertook a survey of 100 Maltese families in South Australia who were interviewed in their own homes. An extensive list of questions was put to these people regarding their health. This survey presented an opportunity for **MACASA** members to speak directly to our older people and discuss their needs with them. It also was an opportunity to inform them about the activities of **MACASA**, and to supply them with information about aged care services that were currently available to them plus possible future options.

The results from the survey identified the need for help at home, and help with Maltese meals, transport and Residential Care. **MACASA** members volunteered their time for this since no financial assistance was received specifically to conduct this survey.

Home-delivered or Frozen Pick-up Meals

In 1998, funding was made available to provide a culturally-appropriate meals service. Thanks to the survey previously conducted, we knew where the majority of the elderly Maltese were located, and we were able to plan our kitchen in a central area. In collaboration with the Maltese Guild of SA, we opened our first kitchen in Beverley at the Maltese Cultural Centre in the Western area. As this was a new venture for us, it was no easy task. It was thanks to the resilience and persistence of Charles Bezzina, our Maltese cook at the time, and **MACASA** that we managed to deliver this service. We are proud that **MACASA** in South Australia is the only Maltese Association providing a Maltese Meals Service in Australia.

Over time, the demand for Maltese meals grew. In 2003, due to further expansion of the Meals Service, it was necessary to look for a bigger kitchen. After moving to the RSL facility in West Croydon, we eventually relocated our Office and Kitchen to:

Cheltenham Community Centre 62 Stroud Street North Cheltenham SA 5014

Our current Services Manager, works with a dedicated group of volunteers who deliver the meals and other services to our clients. The fact that our community owns this service is invaluable; a "little Malta" is created in the busy buzz of our kitchen, as the cooks and volunteers happily participate in the preparation and delivery of approximately 50 meals per day. The value of Maltese volunteers delivering the meals lies in the fact that our clients look forward to chatting with them on a regular basis.

Hot meals are delivered fresh daily from Monday to Friday in certain areas. For many people who would like meals but live outside our delivery areas, we have developed a Frozen Meals Program. This program is also available Monday to Friday, and any number of meals can be picked up from our facility either on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis.

In 2003, an opportunity arose with the then Uniting Care Wesley at Regency Green. Funding was being offered to provide a residential house for ethnic communities. We met, and discussions started, the result of which is our present Maltese wing called "Melita House". We have Maltese residents at present. **MACASA** volunteers visit the residents on a weekly basis and monitor the service to ensure it is ethnically-appropriate.

These **MACASA** volunteers visit and give Holy Communion to our residents regularly. Father Gabriel also performs Mass for all the residents of Regency Green regularly. The residents find comfort in the fact that they are within their own culture with regard to company and appropriate food. Our Kitchen regularly delivers Maltese meals to those residents.



MerHbA

Maltese Historical Association (Aust) Inc
(Għaqda Storika Maltija (Awstralija) Inkorporata)



Participate in this Year's Melbourne Anzac Day March with the Maltese Ex Servicemen Keep the tradition alive! The Maltese Ex services Association of Victoria will be marching this Anzac Day and would like to extend an invitation to the community to participate in this year's march. We will be meeting at the Maltese Community Centre, 477 Royal Parade Parkville VIC 3052 Australia. We will depart the centre 9:45 am or otherwise you can meet us in Flinders street opposite the station, at 10:35am. Look for the Maltese flag. Dress code neat casual.

(Summaries: Charles Gatt)

Fr Edwin Agius celebrates 50th anniversary of his priesthood ordination On Saturday 23rd March 2019 Fr Edwin Agius MSSP celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination at the MCCV in Parkville.



Many well-wishers from the Maltese community attended mass at St Paul's Chapel then participated in celebrations at the Community Centre. The MCCV Vice President, Victor Borg, congratulated Fr Edwin and thanked him for his commitment and dedication. Fr Agius recalled some of his extraordinary experiences in the service of others, then he cut the celebratory cake, made by a highly talented young Maltese pastry chief from the western suburbs of Victoria, Sarah Camilleri.

Celebration in Sunshine The day before, Friday 22 March, Fr Agius had concelebrated a thanksgiving mass for his ordination with 18 priests at St Bernadette's Church, North Sunshine, which was packed with about 500 people standing. Fr Edwin spoke of his early life in Malta and his vocation working among the Community. The Provincial of the MSSP, Fr Ivano Burdian, spoke highly of him and invited the congregation to join him in a special blessing.

Fr Edwin Agius – a profile Fr Edwin Agius was born in Birkirkara, Malta, in 1944 and was ordained a priest by the Archbishop of Malta, Mons Michael Gonzi, on 22 March 1969. He came to Australia on 22 February 1971. After 10 years in Australia, he returned to Malta where he was in charge of the teaching of the Novices. He was elected to the General Council of the MSSP and became Director of St Joseph Institute, Santa Venera. Six years later he returned to Australia as Assistant Parish Priest, later Parish Priest, at St Bernadette's Parish, North Sunshine. In 2004 he moved to the MSSP residence in Parkville as Rector. He still serves as Chaplain of the Maltese Community in Melbourne. Fr Edwin never says "no" to what is asked of him. He conducts engagements, marriages, baptisms, funerals, special Masses for the Maltese community, Feasts of different Patron Saints, and Maltese Masses in various parishes. He also looks after the Italian community and serves as Chaplain in hospitals, where he is "on call" day and night. The MCCV and affiliated associations congratulate Fr Edwin on his wonderful milestone in the service of the Lord and wish him many more years of service to the Maltese community. More details and photos can be found on the MCCV website.

MALTESE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION (Australia)



Spring Gardening Checklist

The garden is waking up, and you're in charge! It's time to plant, prune, prepare beds, and care for your lawn.

EARLY SPRING

Check for signs of growth. Did you remember to plant snow crocus last fall? If not, cut forsythia or magnolia branches to bring inside for forcing to get a dose of early spring color. [Learn how to force branches into bloom.](#)

Prep the beds. Remove winter mulch or, if well composted, work into the top layer

of the soil. Work in some leaf mold or well-rotted manure, too.

Prune. Now is the time to trim fruit trees if you didn't prune in winter. Prune before buds begin to break into bloom or you'll stress the tree and get a tiny crop (or possibly none).

Divide perennials. Before plants have begun spring growth is a good time to divide many perennials. Share some divisions with your friends this year.

Perform basic maintenance. Check stonework for frost heaves. Check and clean the deck now so you don't have to do it later; make any repairs.

Start seeds indoors. You've spent the winter reading seed and plant catalogs, so try some.

Plant veggies. Hardy vegetables, such as onions, potatoes, artichokes, and some lettuces, should be planted now.

MID-SPRING

Build new flower beds. This year, install complementary shrubs offering blooms throughout the season.

Stop feeding the birds. Take down and clean feeders, put them away until AUTUMN.

Enjoy the spring show. Resolve to plant more spring-flowering bulbs next AUTUMN.

Plant hardy annuals. Sow seeds outdoors or transplant seedlings.

Apply mulch. If you mulch now, you'll have next-to-no weeding come summer

LATE SPRING

Deadhead bulbs. Remove spent blossoms from spring-flowering bulbs; let foliage die back without removing it.

Go shopping. Pick out flats of your favorite bedding plants; remember to pick ones not yet in bloom for stronger plants.

Prune spring-flowering shrubs. Trim away spent blooms, and thin too-thick branches to rejuvenate older plants.

[Gina Cefai Spiteri](#) I came here to Australia as a 6-year old in 1952 and I still speak Maltese fluently also manage to read and write in Maltese. What got me upset 2 years ago when I was there in Malta for a holiday the majority of the younger generation no longer speak in Maltese which is very sad and yes we are losing our Maltese language




Maltese-Australian Networking and Social Event

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria (MCCV) and the Australian Maltese Chamber of Commerce (Victorian Chapter) invite you to their joint networking and social event for 2019.

This is a must-attend event for anyone with a Maltese-Australian background, especially business people and professionals.

Guest Speakers



Chris Botha
Investment Specialist, Invest Victoria



Lyndon Galea
Founder, Eat Up



Dr Gioconda Schembri
Author and Executive

Food and beverage with a Maltese theme will be included
Music by Simone Cremona, founder of Musicworx

Tickets \$30

Tuesday 7 May at 7.00pm
477 Royal Parade, Parkville

Book Tickets Online:
tinyurl.com/amcc2019



GOZO STAMPS

Fungus Rock Hagret il-General - GOZO



**Knights
Of Malta,
Grand
Master
Pinto,
Dwejra
Bay,
Healing**

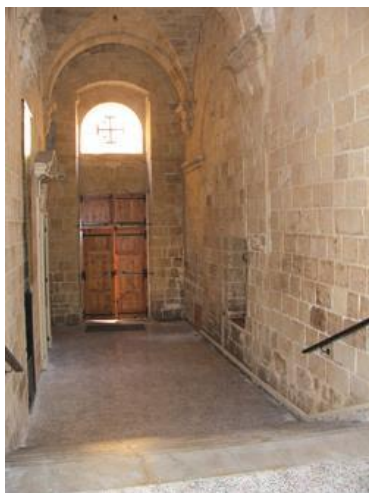
Fungus Plant

The Fungus Rock is known in Maltese as **Hagret il-General (the General's Rock)**. It is a 65 meter high rock 60 metres away from mainland completely encircled with water and located at the mouth of a splendid bay beside the Azur Window. A commander of a squadron of the galleys belonging to the **Knights of Malta** discovered a plant locally known as *Gherq is-Sinjur*. It was thought that it was a

fungus, known as the parasitic flowering plant *Cynomorium Coccineum*. It was thought that it had various medical cures for conditions as dysentery, bleeding and impotence.

This rock was one of the few places where it grew. So during 1746 Grand Master Pinto, in order to protect the plant from thieves defaced the sides of the rock to discourage those who would attempt to climb for it. This was strictly forbidden and severe penalties were imposed upon those who were caught making such an attempt.

It was also guarded from the **Dwejra watch tower**. The Knights were very well known for their medical cures throughout Europe and the plant was for medications in what was then a state of the art hospital in Valletta.



Carnival tragedy of 1823 In Malta

The **Carnival tragedy of 1823**, also known as the **Valletta stampede** in

1823, was a human crush which occurred on 11 February 1823 at the Convent of the Franciscan Friars in Valletta, Malta. About 110 boys who had gone to the convent to receive bread on the last day of carnival celebrations were killed after falling down a flight of steps while trying to get out of the convent.

Background - At the time of the tragedy, Malta was experiencing a famine and it had become a tradition to gather 8- to 15-year-old boys from the lower classes of Valletta and the Three Cities to participate in a procession during the last few days of carnival. After the procession, they would attend mass, and they would be given some bread afterwards. This activity was arranged by ecclesiastical directors who taught catechism, and its main aim was to keep children out of the riots and confusion of carnival.

This activity was organized on 10 February 1823, when children attended mass at Floriana and then went to the Convent of the Franciscan Minors (now better known as *ta' Ġiezu*) in Valletta where they were given bread. Everything went as planned, and the same procedure was planned for the following day.

Disaster - The same procedure took place on 11 February 1823. Children were gathered and attended mass at Floriana, but the ceremony lasted an hour longer than usual. The children's procession to the convent in Valletta occurred at the same time as the carnival celebrations had ended, so they met with many people who were returning home. At this point, some adults and children from the crowd mixed in with the boys in order to receive some free bread.

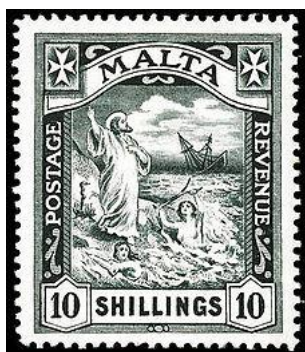
The boys entered one of the convent's corridors from the vestry door in the church, and were to be let out through another door in St. Ursula Street. The bread was to be distributed at the latter door.^{[3][4]} Although the vestry door was usually locked to prevent boys from reentering to receive more bread, this time the door was left open since the boys were late. Due to this, more men and boys entered without anyone realizing.

Those who had entered began to push the boys queuing in the corridor, who were shoved to the end of the corridor near a half-open door. At this point, a lamp went out leaving the corridor in darkness, and the people inside began to push forward even more. The boys at the front fell down a flight of steps, blocking the door in the process.

Those who were distributing the bread as well as some neighbours rushed to assist the children after they heard screams. They managed to open the doors, and many boys got out and were revived. However, a number of boys had already died due to suffocation or being trampled upon.

The exact number of casualties is not known. Records of the Sacra Infermeria show that 94 bodies of boys aged between 15 and 16 were brought to the hospital on 11 February, and they were buried the following day. However, contemporary records such as *The Gentleman's Magazine and Historical Chronicle* reveal that "no less than 110 boys perished on this occasion".

An investigation led by the Lieutenant Governor took place after the disaster, and a report about the findings was published a few days after the incident. The investigation concluded that the stampede took place as a result of a succession of errors, and no one was accused for the deaths of the children.



Rare Malta "Saint Paul" 10s stamp

Nature of rarity – few printed – 1530

No in existence – Unknown

Face value - 10 shillings

Estimate value – 4000 Euro

The **Saint Paul 10s black** is Malta's most expensive postage stamp.^[1] It was issued on 6 March 1919 and it replaced the 1899 10s stamp which had a similar design but with differences in the frame.

In 1899, four pictorial stamps were issued, with the highest value being a black 10 shillings portraying Saint Paul's shipwreck in Malta. This stamp was only valid for postage, and not for fiscal use except when overprinted with the word "REVENUE".

In 1913, a new stamp was prepared with the same design but with the inscription altered reflecting the fact that the stamp was also valid for fiscal (revenue) use. This was printed by De La Rue with a Multiple Crown CA watermark, and was ready by 1919. Since supplies of the 1899 stamp remained in stock, only 1530 copies were ordered (51 sheets of 30). It had been intended that the release of the new stamp should be delayed until supplies of the older one were exhausted. However, an oversight at the Valletta post office resulted in it being put on public sale on 6 March 1919. Due to the few copies printed, the stamps sold out within a couple of days. In 1922 the stamp was reprinted on Multiple Script CA watermarked paper.^[2] Since more were printed, the stamp is not as rare as the 1919 issue, however it still catalogues at €350 mint and €650 used.

German Nursing Adaptation Course, Malta



German Nursing Adaptation Course is an integrated collection of study modules and services intended to develop foreign nurses' core academic, technical and employability skills; provide them with continuous education, training; and place them in high-demand, high-opportunity jobs. Each module in the curriculum of studies is designed to prepare individuals for the next level of employment and education and provide a credential with labor market value. Altogether, this course is of a duration of 10

months (1 year) with a key focus on the language modules to attain the proficiency in German language preferably Level B2 and also inclusive of the Expert Modules like Hygiene, Mental Health, German medical system and quality assurance which makes the students better prepared for the rapid changes that take place in today's workplace.

Duration : 10 months

Intake : June, 2019

Course Fee : 6500 Euros (entire course fee)

Campus : MCAST (Malta College of Arts, Science & Technology)

Highlighting the individual brilliance of these fine musicians!!!!

The Rockin Eddie Band



Also appearing Charlie Camilleri
Saturday Night 27th July.
Ribbonwood Centre
Dapto

From 6pm to late.

To Contact
T.R.E.B.
 0412005807
 You are always
 assured of a great
 Night.

IN AID OF THE MALTESE COMMUNITY CENTRE OF WOLLONGONG

For those that were not aware, last month the Maltese community Club in Wollongong was robbed by a couple of Bullies with intimidation. After a weekend of great success of fund raising with a couple of major fundraisers the elderly volunteers were made to lay face down on the floor while the clubs Vice president was forced to open the safe where they were robbed of all the weekends takings.

Although no one was physically hurt, I can imagine the mental stress this would have cause. This Robbery has left our Maltese Club in dire need. For this reason myself & the boys from The Rockin Eddie Band have put our hands up & agreed with the president to put on a Rock n Roll show like no other. The awesome Charlie Camilleri will also be performing on the night.

We ask all to support this event which is Dated to take place on the Saturday the 27th July at the Ribbonwood Centre Dapto. Tickets are very reasonable & will be available for sale as of next week. Even if you feel you can't make it due to other commitments you can still help by passing the word to every Tom Dick & harry. Your help would certainly be appreciated. Come on Rockers! Let's get together!

President in Mater Dei Hospital visit, affirms full support to patients requiring acute care



unfortunate traffic accidents.

He continued by affirming his full support to patients who require acute care. These will continue to find support through MCCFF and Puttinu, he maintained.

This visit, which was well received by staff and patients alike, was intended to convey substance to the President's inaugural speech, and to show respect to the hospital's patients.

President Vella concluded by thanking hospital staff for their dedication and promptness in tending to all patients, as well as all local and foreign employees who chose to practice their profession at Mater Dei hospital.



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND TRADE PROMOTION

CALL TO YOUNG LEADERS, EDUCATORS AND INTERCULTURAL EXPERTS
The Mediterranean Generation: Malta Forum for the "Summit of the Two Shores"
Malta, 25 April 2019
#MediterraneanGeneration

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion, following on the initiative of the French President Emanuel Macron, and in collaboration with the Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF), is launching a call to young leaders, educators, civil society practitioners and intercultural experts from across Malta to participate in the upcoming Forum "The Mediterranean Generation", to be held on 25 April 2019. This event is being held with the support of the European Commission, and in association with the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), the Mediterranean Academy for Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC) and the *Agenzija Żgħażaġh* as well as other renowned international organisations.

This regional gathering on "Youth, Mobility and Education" represents one of the pre-Summit Forums in the framework of the landmark "Summit of the Two Shores" to be held in Marseille on 24 June with Heads of State/Governments from the 5+5 Western Mediterranean Dialogue countries, the European Union and Germany, Mediterranean organisations (UfM and ALF), international institutions (WB, EIB, EBRD and the OECD) and one hundred civil society representatives from the two shores of the Mediterranean.

The output of this official pre-Summit Forum in Malta will shape large-scale, multi-lateral projects and policy actions to be launched through the Summit, putting youth and civil society dialogue at the heart of renewed cooperation in the Mediterranean. The Malta Forum will be structured on a World Café model with interactive working group sessions aimed at exchanging innovative practice and refining large-scale actions to be expanded across the two shores of the Mediterranean.

If interested to participate, please respond by emailing: s2r.mftp@gov.mt by no later than 17.15hrs of Friday, 12 April 2019 including a concise motivation letter and updated CV and, preferably, a support letter from the CEO/Leader/Head of an appropriate entity/organisation relevant to the sectors covered by this forum.

It is important to note that places are limited and registration of interest to participate does not automatically imply confirmation of attendance.

More information can be obtained by contacting 22042325 or 22042292 or 22042262.

Happy Easter
to all
our readers

L-Għid it-Tajjeb
lill-Qarrejja tagħna

Multicultural Community Councils of Illawarra NSW



Chris Lacey MCCI's CEO and Louis Parnis, President of the Maltese Community Centre consolidating their affiliation for the last 12 Years. The future looking bright ascertaining the Maltese Community continue to prosper

The Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra Inc. (MCCI), formerly known as the Illawarra Ethnic Communities Council (IECC) was established in 1975 in Wollongong following the disbanding of the Good Neighbours Council.

The IECC operated from a small fibro home in Stewart Street later relocating to a heritage-listed property on 116 Corrimal Street in Wollongong, to accommodate expanding services.

The IECC recognised the importance of providing representation for the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) and migrant communities in the Illawarra. As a result, the organisation was formed with a strong advocacy and lobbying focus, hosting the first Aged Care Forum for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities in the Illawarra in 1984.

In 2009, the IECC relocated head office operations to Wollongong CBD and at the special members meeting was renamed "Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra".

Following the success of the first Aged Care Forum in 1982, the IECC received the first funding "Grant-In-Aid" for a part-time

Community Worker funded by the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.

In August, 1987, the Eastern European and Baltic States Aged Day Care Centre was opened by the Minister of Youth and Community Services, the Hon John Aquilina MP.

As one of the first ethnic specific day care programs in the region, the program highlighted the need for more ethnic-specific aged care services for the ageing (CALD) community.

In 1988 a number of additional language specific Aged Day Care Programs began in various community languages under the Department of Ageing Disability and Home Care, Home and Community Care Program.

Throughout the years the numerous MCCI programs and ethnic specific Day Cares have significantly increased. We currently run over 14 Centre Based Day Cares, have an extensive range of short and long term youth programs, program for the elderly as well as programs that provide information to our CALD communities or to services that are in contact with these CALD communities.

**Find us on Facebook and Twitter and also at the
Malta Migration Museum - Valletta
Maltese/Canadian Archives - Toronto Canada**



Discover Malta and Gozo through its people and culture

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

Read, enjoy and share



**Whoever is
trying to
bring you down
is already
below you**